# The Maritime News

The Official Newspaper of San Francisco Maritime **National Historical Park** 

June, July, August 2010







# Summertime Fun In the Park

his issue marks our busiest season, and this year there's more happening than ever. Whether you've got half an hour, or half a day, you'll find something fun and educational for the whole family. Be sure to stop by the Visitor Center at the corner of Hyde and Beach Streets to pick up a park brochure.

The *Alma's* sailing program's popularity just keeps growing, and this year we've added Thursday sails in the months of July and August. Boarding for the three-hour, ranger-led tour starts at 12:30 p.m. on Hyde Street Pier. Don't miss the chance to sail aboard an 1891 San Francisco Bay scow schooner!

Summer means sailing and restoration in the Small Boat Shop on Hyde Street, so step inside and see what's happening. The big project this summer is the 1936 motor launch Eva B. Step aboard the special viewing platform to view the work, but be careful – boatwrights will be steambending and installing planking throughout the season!

The new First Bloom garden, designed and planted by kids from the San Francisco Boys & Girls Clubs this May, will be in full flower this summer. Located just west of the cable car turnaround, the plot connects local 4-6th graders to the environment while demonstrating the beauty and utility of native species to all visitors.

The ongoing restoration of the unique murals in the lobby of the Maritime Museum (originally the Aquatic Park Bathhouse) is a great chance to see one of San Francisco's most overlooked treasures. Contrast these dreamy, "psychedelic" visions with the realism of other 1930s art projects. Ask a park ranger to show you how the colors in the newly-restored sections pop, and don't miss the beautiful, carved slate panels at the museum entrance (by artist Sargent Johnson, recently honored by the Art Deco Society).

As planning for new, permanent exhibits in the museum continues, the park will be installing a series of temporary shows featuring items from the collection. This summer, be sure to peruse a selection of iconic ship models and significant artifacts that chart West Coast maritime history.





Photo, top: Small Boat Shop volunteers working on the 1936 motor launch Eva B. on Hyde Street Pier. Photo, above: The new native plant garden taking shape. Please walk by the garden, located just west of the cable car turnaround, and see how it has progressed since the May 8, 2010 planting. Photos: NPS

Photos, above, left to right: Scow schooner Alma "running with the wind" on San Francisco Bay, restored WPA murals in the Maritime Museum lobby (Do you see the mermaid?), and carved slate panels by artist Sargent Johnson that adorn the exterior. Photo: NPS

### Welcome

Whether your stay here in San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park is marked in minutes or hours, I hope that you find it worthwhile.

If your time is limited, consider strolling down Hyde Street Pier, and then taking a short walk across Aquatic Park to admire the WPA murals inside the Maritime Museum lobby.

With an hour or two to spare, you can learn "firsthand" about America's maritime heritage by touring the historic ships berthed at the Pier, and then joining an educational, ranger-led tour.

On some Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, consider investing an afternoon in a three-hour sail aboard our 1891 Alma. This National Historic Landmark scow schooner was built right on the banks of San Francisco Bay.

Have fun, and thanks for visiting!

Craig Kenkel Superintendent



## Summertime Fun In the Park

Whether you've got half an hour, or half a day, you'll find something fun and educational for the whole family.

## 2 Family Photo Album Discovered

You just never know what treasures are lurking in peoples' closets and

# 4 Unique Visitors on Hyde Street Pier

What's up? Flying saucers on Hyde Street Pier...???!!!



Park Website: www.nps.gov/safr

Summer Fun In the Park...1

Superintendent's Message...1

**Visitor Information...2** 

Family Photo Album...2

**Events and Programs...3** 

Fun Page for Kids...4

Today in the Park...4

Park Map...4



#### San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park

Established in 1988, San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park encompasses 34 acres, and contains the most national historic landmarks of any unit in the National Park Service. In addition to the fleet of historic ships at Hyde Street Pier, the park includes the Aquatic Park Historic District (Maritime Museum, beach, lawn area, and bocce ball courts), a Visitor Center and a research library (in Fort Mason Center).

### Superintendent

Craig Kenkel

### Chief of Interpretation

John Cunnane (Acting)

### **Public Affairs Officer** Lynn Cullivan

### **-**,....

*Maritime News* Editor Christine Baird

### Mailing Address

Fort Mason Center, Building E San Francisco, CA 94123

### Fax Number

415-556-1624

### **Park Information**

415-447-5000

Contributors to Volume 29: Rejane Butler, Tim Campbell, Stephen Canright, Lynn Cullivan, Terry Dorman, and Richard

*The Maritime News* June, July, August 2010 Volume No. 29.

# **Exhibit Taking Shape In Visitor Center**

Construction continues on the new exhibit, *A Walk Along the Waterfront*. The exhibit is designed to be experienced as if

walking around San Francisco, beginning at the Presidio and ending at the southern shipyards near Hunters Point.

Hundreds of rare artifacts and photographs will be displayed within the storefronts and entryways of a waterfront long since vanished. The 1853 figure-



# Hilda Nelson's Family Photo Album

By Stephen Canright, Park Curator, Maritime History

You just never know what treasures are lurking in peoples' closets and attics. And last December, with the help of the great granddaughter of the owner of a lumber schooner, the park made an exciting discovery.

Vicki Kuells, a woman living in Foresthill, California, a small, Gold Country town located northeast of Sacramento, called the park. Her family had been in the shipping business and she had a family photo album that had been around for awhile and, "Would someone like to come and have a look?" The park curator and historian drove there not knowing what they might find.

It turns out that Vicki is the great grand-daughter of Peter and Hilda Nelson. "Whitehead Pete" Nelson was in the salmon salting business in Alaska, and between 1912 and 1925 was the owner of the park's very own schooner *C.A. Thayer*. On the wall in the Kuells' study was a framed photo of Pete. "We knew right away that we were onto something special," recalled Park Historian Stephen Canright.

Pete Nelson was born in 1863 in Sweden and went to sea as a young man. He ended



Photo above: A page from the album. "Whitehead Pete" Nelson, Hilda, and son Rudolph Nelson. Pete was a skillful salter of fish, but Hilda was apparently the driving force behind the family business. Photo below: Pete had a number of smaller boats built by the William Cryer yard in Oakland. This is the newlybuilt, gas-powered launch *Olga*, in 1909 on her trial run with Pete and friends aboard. These boats were shipped to Alaska on the decks of schooners and used in the salting operations. Photo: NPS

up on the West
Coast, and when
he married in 1897
was working for the
Alaska Packers.
His new wife urged
him to go into business for himself and
in 1902 he established a salmon salting station in Alaska
at the Igushik River
in Bristol Bay. By the
early 1920s, Nelson
was the largest op-

erator in the salting business, a specialized corner of the Alaska salmon fishery. He spent summers in Alaska and during the off season traveled the nation to personally sell his catch. Pete never got rich, but was able to provide comfortably for his family.



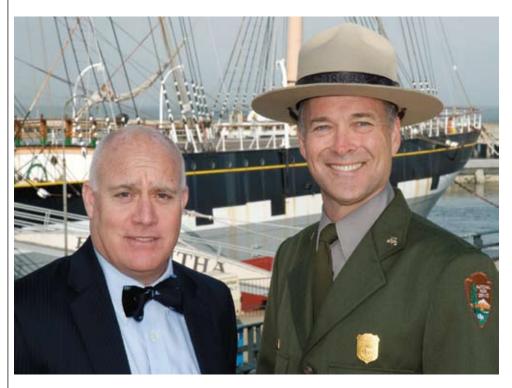
Vicki Kuells graciously agreed to loan the park the family album, allowing the park to make digital copies of many entirely new images that are now part of the permanent collection. Visit www.nps.gov/safr/historyculture/c-a-thayer.htm for more information about the *C.A. Thayer*.

head from the clipper ship *David Crockett*, will be displayed just as it once was, hanging from the prow of a Gold Rush-era clipper ship.

Beneath "Davey" will be an interesting historical juxtaposition: the recreation of a modern day SF archaeological dig. While walking atop a glass floor, visitors will see Gold Rush artifacts displayed beneath their feet, buried as they were found with the remains of ships. Photo below: Park staff prepare the figurehead for display.



# Partners In Preservation



Ted Regan, San Francisco Maritime National Park Association Executive Director (left), and Craig Kenkel, San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park Superintendent, launch a new partnership to protect and preserve America's maritime heritage.

### **Visitor Information**

### **Dates and Hours of Operation:**

Hyde Street Pier, located at Hyde and Jefferson Streets, is open 9:30AM to 5:30PM. Last pier entry at 5:00PM.

**Visitor Center**, located at the corner of Hyde and Jefferson Streets, is open 9:30<sub>AM</sub> to 5:30<sub>PM</sub>.

Maritime Museum (in the Aquatic Park Bathhouse Building), located on Beach Street at the foot of Polk Street. The building is open from 10:00AM to 4:00PM daily.

Maritime Library, located on the third floor of Building E in Fort Mason Center (auto entrance at Buchanan Street and Marina Blvd), open to the public by appointment Monday–Friday (1PM–4PM), and the 3rd Saturday of the month (10AM–5PM). Call 415-561-7030.

### **Contact Information**

General Park Information: 415-447-5000 Maritime Store: 415-775-2665 Maritime Library: 415-561-7030 USS *Pampanito*: 415-775-1943 Park Website: www.nps.gov/safr Association Website: www.maritime.org Entrance Fee for Historic Vessels: \$5
Free for supervised children under 16.
Free with Federal Interagency Annual,
Senior, and Access Passes, and San Francisco
Maritime NHP Annual Pass.

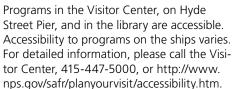
### No-Fee Areas

Visitor Center, Hyde Street Pier, Aquatic Park Historic Landmark District, and the Maritime Library (Fort Mason Center).

### Reservations

Reservations for school groups and other educational groups must be made at least two weeks prior to your visit, call 415-292-6664.

### Accessibility Information



### Permits

Special Use Permits require at least a one month notice and application. Filming permits are arranged on an individual basis, call 415-561-7170.

# Music, Tours, Events, Lectures and Living History

### **NEW PROGRAMS**

A WALK ALONG THE WATERFRONT Sundays, June 20, July 18, and August 15, 1PM. Meet in the Visitor Center, in the Sailor's Den. Free.

Join Docent Warren Riley for an illustrated talk on changes to the San Francisco waterfront. Learn how historical events, such as the discovery of gold in 1848, contributed to the transformation of the waterfront over more than 100 years.



THE NEW C. A. THAYER

Sundays, June 13, July 11, and August 8, 3<sub>PM</sub>. Meet on Thayer's gangway. Vessel admission (under 16 free).

Learn how the recent rebuild of the *C*. *A*. *Thayer* lumber schooner provides insight into the old craft of wooden shipbuilding. Meet the park ranger on the main deck.

### **MORE PROGRAMS**

### CRAFTS FOR KIDS

Saturdays, June 26, July 31, and August 28, 3PM. Meet at the entrance to Hyde Street Pier. Free. Want to learn a little about life at sea and make a cool maritime craft? Come on down to the pier and join us!

# MEMORIES ETCHED IN IVORY: A SAILOR'S ART

Fridays, June 11, 18, 25, and July 23, 30, 1:30<sub>PM</sub>. Aboard Eureka at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission (under 16 free).

Learn the artistic process of scrimshaw. Create your own scrimshaw and take your art home with you. View scrimshaw pieces and other examples of sailor's work. You don't have to be an artist to attend!

ANIMALS OF HYDE STREET PIER June 17, 18, 19, July 17, 18, 19, and August 1, 14, 29, 11<sub>AM</sub>. Meet at the end of Hyde Street Pier. Free.

Come experience a whole different world you might not realize exists at Hyde Street Pier.  $\bigcirc$ 

# MARITIME STORY TIME: THE TALE OF HENRY AND HARRY

Saturdays, June 12, July 17, and August 7, 1-1:30<sub>PM</sub>. Meet in the Visitor Center, in the Sailor's Den. Free. Ages 6-12.

Join in this fun-filled, interactive program about two stowaway kittens aboard the *Balclutha*. Find out what it was like to be a feline sailor in 1887 rounding stormy Cape Horn heading to San Francisco.

LIFESAVING AT THE GOLDEN GATE Sundays, June 27 and July 25, 3pm-3:45pm. Meet in the Visitor Center. Free.

In San Francisco's maritime heydey, countless lives were saved by the brave men of the Lifesaving Service. Join us at the Visitor Center to view the tools of the trade.

### © FUN FOR FAMILIES PROGRAM



The Maritime News is printed on recycled paper using soy-based inks. Please recycle it again.

SMALL CRAFT ON HYDE STREET PIER Saturdays, June 12, July 24 and August 28, 3PM-3:45PM. Meet at the Small Boat Shop. Free. Join a Park Ranger for a special tour of the unique collection of small craft on the pier and berthed at Hyde Street Pier's floating docks.

HISTORIC WATERFRONT WALKING TOUR: FROM GOLD RUSH TO NATIONAL PARK Saturdays and Sundays, 10:30-11:30AM. Meet in the Argonaut Hotel lobby (495 Jefferson St.), adjacent to the Visitor Center. Free. Stroll with a Park Ranger to discover the history of this vibrant area on a walking tour through the Aquatic Park Historic District, the Cannery, Hyde Street Pier, and "Fish Alley" at Fisherman's Wharf. We'll walk about a mile, on gently sloping and uneven terrain. Dress in layers, wear sunscreen, and walking shoes.

#### MARITIME MUSEUM

Open 10:00<sub>AM</sub> to 4:00<sub>PM</sub> daily. Located at 900 Beach Street, at the foot of Polk Street. Free.

The newly restored 1939 Works Progress Administration-era building's lobby and veranda are open to the public. View the the unique architecture, stunning murals, sculpture, and temporary exhibits. ©

ADVENTURES AT SEA: LIFE ABOARD A 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY SAILING SHIP Daily, 2:15<sub>PM</sub>. Aboard Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission (under 16 free). Join a guided tour of the historic ship Balclutha. Discover the hardships and rewards of the sailors who fought for survival during the treacherous Cape Horn passage.

LIGHTHOUSES OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY Sundays, June 20, July 18, and August 15, 3:15pm. Meet in the Visitor Center, in the Sailor's Den. Free.

Join Volunteer Warren Riley for a program on the role of lighthouses in the development of San Francisco. Learn about the history, equipment, and unique people who ran lighthouses.

### HERCULES ENGINEERING TOUR

Thursday, June 17, 3PM, Sunday, July 11, 1PM, and Sunday, August 8, 1PM. Meet at the gangway on the Pier. Vessel admission (under 16 free). Tour includes climbing moderately steep ladders and entering cramped spaces. Explore the major engineering spaces and learn about steam engine technology and its effects on the working environment of the marine steam engineer.

EUREKA ENGINE ROOM TOUR
Saturdays, June 5, July 3, and Sunday,
August 29, 3PM-3:45PM. Meet on Eureka's
gangway. Vessel admission (under 16 free).
Take a special tour of the ferryboat
Eureka's engine room and get a close-up
look at what makes a steam ferry run.



Friends of the San Francisco Maritime Museum Library Join the Friends and help support the J. Porter Shaw Library at San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park. Membership includes reduced admission to Friends' events, free admission to the Pier, and discounts on books purchased at the library and The Maritime Store on Hyde Street Pier. Call 415-561-7040.

SMALL CRAFT COLLECTION TOUR Saturdays, June 19, July 10, and August 28, 9:30<sub>AM</sub>-2:30<sub>PM</sub>. Free. Call 415-292-6664, or email mgardner@maritime.org, to make a reservation and for directions to the warehouse.

We'll tour the collection of nearly 100 historic boats, stored in a warehouse in Alameda, talking about history, design and construction. Bring a bag lunch.

A SINGING TOUR OF BALCLUTHA Sundays, June 20, July 25, and August 29, 1–1:45<sub>PM</sub>. Aboard Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission (under 16 free). Being a sailor was a brutal job, but singing lessened the pain. During this tour, listen to examples of work and leisure songs. If you wish, you may join us to haul on a line as we sing.

### **MUSIC**

#### **CHANTEY SING**

Saturdays, June 5, July 3, and August 7, 8PM-MIDNIGHT. Free. Aboard a historic vessel at Hyde Street Pier. Reservations required: call 415-561-7171 or email peter\_kasin@nps.gov. Sing traditional working songs aboard a historic floating vessel. Bring a mug for hot cider served from the ship's galley.

MUSIC OF THE SEA FOR KIDS

Saturdays, June 19, July 17, and August 21, 3<sub>PM</sub>. Aboard Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission (under 16 free). History comes alive for kids in this special

History comes alive for kids in this special program, where the songs are geared for younger ears and chosen especially for fun. Ages 7 and up.

### COSTUMED LIVING HISTORY

A DAY IN THE LIFE: 1901

Saturdays, June 12, July 10, and August 14, Noon-Spm. Aboard the historic vessels at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission (under 16 free). Reservations required, please call 415-447-5000.

Step into the past as you board the historic ships. Help the sailors on *Balclutha* raise the staysail in the morning, and then sing chanteys during the afternoon dogwatch. Visit the ship's cook in the galley, talk to ferry passengers on *Eureka*, and discuss the issues of the day during afternoon tea with Mrs. Galan on the Ark houseboat. Witness a shipboard wedding in June and in July, a dramatic re-creation of the waterfront labor strike demonstration.

## MARITIME HISTORY ORIENTATION CLASSES OFFERED THIS SUMMER

Thursdays, July 15, 22, and 29, 9AM-NOON. Free. Aboard the historic vessels Balclutha and Eureka at Hyde Street Pier. Reservations required: call 415-561-7035 or email mark\_goldstein@nps.gov.

Park employees, volunteers, and the general public are invited to attend this series of illustrated lectures and ship tours. Come learn about California clipper ships, San Francisco as a trade hub, life at sea during the Age of Sail, small craft and ferries that ply the waters of the Bay, and the transition from sail to steam. Park employees will present the lectures and lead guided tours of the squarerigger *Balclutha*, ferryboat *Eureka*, schooner *C.A. Thayer*, and the small craft docks. Call 415-561-7035 for more information.

# Volunteers Have More Fun... At Hyde Street Pier



A dazzling variety of volunteer opportunities await you at San Francisco Maritime! Would you like to volunteer for a day, or commmit for several hours a week? Not a problem. Do you like learning new skills, working with people, expanding your knowledge of maritime history, having fun with friends, and meeting new friends? If you answered yes to any of the above, please give our extremely friendly and welcoming volunteer coordinator Terry a call today and find out what's up with the volunteer program, 415-556-1613. We hope to see you on the pier soon!

## SEA MUSIC CONCERT SERIES THIS FALL



Lee Murdock, one of the nation's leading performers of Great Lakes maritime songs, will perform on Saturday, October 30, 2010. Photo: Chris Winters, Pier Wiccopsin

San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park proudly presents its 22nd Annual Sea Music Concert Series. This September, October, and November we once again invite you to experience the driving rhythms of chanteys and the beauty of seafaring ballads from the wooden decks of the 1886 square-rigged sailing ship *Balclutha*, berthed at Hyde Street Pier on San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf.

Performing on 9/25, The Barbary Ghosts and Salty Walt and the Rattlin' Ratlines, Lee Murdock on 10/30, and Jimmy Crowley and Máirtín de Cógáin on 11/20. To order tickets, call 415-561-6662 ext. 33.

### SPEAKER SERIES AND MOVIE NIGHTS

When the Water Came Up to Montgomery Street: SF During the Gold Rush. June 24. Historian Charles Fracchia will discuss his latest book on the origins of the city by the Bay.

Chief Marin: Leader, Rebel, Legend. July 21. Professor Betty Goerke will discuss this 19th century Miwok Indian and Marin County's namesake. Lectures begin at 6:30pm in the Maritime Museum.

Floating Films on Hyde Street Pier, 8PM Pirates of the Caribbean, June 17 Alfred Hitchcock's Lifeboat, July 15 Jaws, August 19

Suggested donation for these events: \$5. For information, www.maritime.org or call the SF Maritime National Park Association, 415-561-6662.

### **Today In The Park**

### JUNE

- Guided Tour of *Balclutha* (daily) Guided Tour of Bathhouse (daily)
- Fee Free Day Historic Waterfront Walking Tour (every Saturday) Eureka Engine Room Tour **Chantey Sing**
- Fee Free Day Historic Waterfront Walking Tour (every Sunday)
- 11 Memories Etched in Ivory
- 12 Costumed Living History Maritime Story Time Small Craft On Hyde Street Pier
- 13 The New C.A. Thayer
- 17 Animals of Hyde Street Pier Hercules Engineering Tour Movie Night
- Animals of Hyde Street Pier Memories Etched in Ivory

- 19 Small Craft Collection Tour Animals of Hyde Street Pier Music of the Sea for Kids Maritime Library Open
- 20 A Singing Tour of Balclutha A Walk Along The Waterfront Lighthouses of SF Bay
- 24 Speaker Series
- Memories Etched in Ivory
- Crafts For Kids
- 27 Lifesaving At the Golden Gate

#### **JULY**

- Guided Tour of *Balclutha* (daily) Guided Tour of Bathhouse (daily)
- Historic Waterfront Walking Tour (every Saturday) Eureka Engine Room Tour **Chantey Sing**
- Happy 4th of July: Park Open Historic Waterfront Walking Tour (every Sunday)
- 10 Small Craft Collection Tour

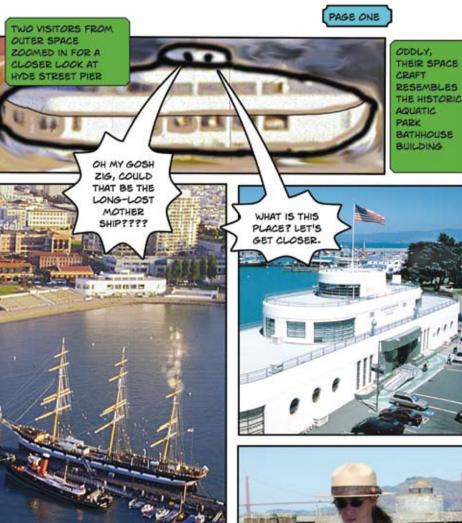
- Costumed Living History
- The New C.A. Thayer Hercules Engineering Tour
- Movie Night
- 17 Animals of Hyde Street Pier Maritime Story Time Music of the Sea for Kids Maritime Library open
- 18 Animals of Hyde Street Pier A Walk Along The Waterfront Lighthouses of SF Bay
- 19 Animals of Hyde Street Pier
- 21 Speaker Series
- 23 Memories Etched in Ivory
- 24 Small Craft On Hyde Street Pier
- A Singing Tour of Balclutha Lifesaving At the Golden Gate
- 30 Memories Etched in Ivory
- Crafts For Kids

### **AUGUST**

Guided Tour of *Balclutha* (daily) Guided Tour of Bathhouse (daily)

- Historic Waterfront Walking Tour (every Sunday)
- Animals of Hyde Street Pier
- Historic Waterfront Walking Tour (every Saturday) Maritime Story Time Chantey Sing
- The New C.A. Thayer Hercules Engineering Tour
- Fee Free Day Animals of Hyde Street Pier Costumed Living History
- 15 Fee Free Day A Walk Along The Waterfront Lighthouses of SF Bay
- Movie Night
- Music of the Sea for Kids Maritime Library open
- Small Craft Collection Tour Crafts For Kids
- Small Craft On Hyde Street Pier Animals of Hyde Street Pier A Singing Tour of Balclutha Eureka Engine Room Tour

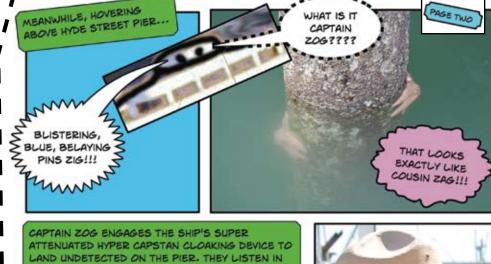
# Fun Page for Kids



AND WHY IS THAT LIFE FORM IN GREEN AND GREY WEARING A FLYING SAUCER ON ITS HEAD??







ON RANGER REJANE'S PROGRAM.

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A BARNACLE? THEY ARE STUCK TO THE WOODEN PILINGS THAT HOLD UP THE PIER. THEY'RE STANDING ON THEIR HEADS AND THEY EAT WITH THEIR FEET WHEN THE WATER COVERS THEM.



HERE IS A SEA STAR CLINGING TO A PILING. THIS ANIMAL LIKES TO DRINK HIS FOOD. HIS FAVORITE IS A MUSSEL. HE PULLS IT OPEN JUST ENOUGH, TURNS HIS STOMACH INSIDE OUT, AND THE DIGESTIVE JUICES TURN THE MUSSEL TO LIQUID AND THE SEA STAR SLURPS IT UP. YUM!!!

TO BE CONTINUED ... DO YOU HAVE A COMMENT OR IDEA FOR CAPTAIN ZOG AND FIRST MATES ZIG'S NEXT ADVENTURE IN THE PARK? EMAIL THE EDITOR, CHRISTINE\_BAIRD@NPS-GOV



